



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2018

No. 85

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 23, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EVAN H. JENKINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

### FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, May is Foster Care Month and a time to recognize the almost 800,000 foster youth in America. During this month, we renew our commitment to ensuring that every child has a safe, loving family. I am a member of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, and also had a foster brother growing up. He is still my brother today.

I know firsthand how a loving, supportive home can make all the difference in a young person's life. Every child deserves to grow up healthy and safe. We know that when children grow up in stable households, they are much more likely to succeed as adults.

This month, we both recommit ourselves to ensuring that every child has access to the promise of the American Dream while honoring the countless professionals and individuals who make selfless sacrifices to make this promise a reality.

Mr. Speaker, today is Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day. More than 100 foster youth from across the country will be here in Congress spending the day with Members of Congress. Shadow Day allows foster youth to share their experiences in foster care directly with Congress to help inform and improve child welfare policy. The child welfare system directly impacts their lives, so it is important foster youth voices are heard here in Congress.

Today, I am proud to have Lawrence White with me as a part of Shadow Day. Lawrence is a 22-year-old from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was in the foster care system from the time he was 10 years old until the time he turned 20. That is when he aged out of the system.

During those 10 years, Lawrence shuffled between 19 different homes and placements. Despite moving so often, Lawrence was able to stay in programs that he enjoyed, such as theater and church activities. He said such activities kept him grounded, or, as he puts it, "I was fortunate enough to remain humble and beat the odds."

Mr. Speaker, the experiences of youth who transition out of the foster care system without a permanent home place them at a higher risk of unemployment, poor educational outcomes, health issues, early parenthood, long-term dependency on public assistance,

increased rates of incarceration, and homelessness. But, as Lawrence said: He beat the odds.

Lawrence graduated from high school and earned a scholarship to attend Point Park University in Pittsburgh. He now works as a youth support partner with young people in the foster care system.

He currently attends Daytona State College, where his future goal is to become a business owner and an author. I have no doubt that the future is bright for Lawrence.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that I can spend time today with Lawrence and hear about how we can improve the foster care system, because every child deserves a safe, supportive, and permanent family.

### THANKING THE USO FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the USO was on Capitol Hill yesterday for a service project where volunteers can assemble snack packs for servicemembers who are currently deployed. More than 2,000 snack packs were assembled as a part of the Force Behind the Forces campaign.

The USO strengthens America's military servicemembers by keeping them connected to family, home, and country throughout their service to the Nation. USO has more than 200 locations around the globe. It serves 4.9 million Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve members and their families.

For more than 75 years, the USO has been by the side of America's military servicemembers. From the moment they join, through their assignments and deployments, and as they transition back to their communities, the USO has been there.

There are USO centers at or near military installations across the United States and throughout the world, including in combat zones, and even un-staffed USO service sites in places too dangerous for anyone but combat troops to occupy.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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